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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1417)

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Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	708164
Center	ONLINE	Date	12/12/2020

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Dadabhai Naoroji left an indelible imprint on the national movement. Explain. **(150 words) 10**
दादाभाई नौरोजी ने राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन पर एक अमिट छाप छोड़ी। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Dadabhai Naoroji was known as the "Grand Old Man of Indian Resistance". As one of the first Indian nationalist leaders, his contribution to the national movement was invaluable.

Imprint on national movement

1) Economic critique of ~~nationalism~~ colonialism:
- His "drain theory" exposed the exploitative nature of colonialism, showing how high tariffs on Indian exports and unlimited British imports kept India in poverty.

2) Moderate leader:
- Along with leaders like R C Dutt and GK Gokhale, he placed Indian demands to the

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British administration, on issues such as expansion of councils, age of civil services exam, press freedom etc.

- Their speeches in legislative Councils served to educate the middle classes about these issues.

3) Social Reformer:

- He was a founding member of the Rahnumai Mazdayasnan Sabha which carried out Parsi social reform.
- He spread awareness through his newspaper Rast Goftar.

4) Work in England:

- He was instrumental in lobbying for India's interests through the East India Association in London.
- He was also a member of the House of Commons, advocating for India.

Thus Dadabhai Nauroji set a foundation for later phases of the national movement

For Reena Kulkarni(reenakulkarni.58@gmail.com)

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2. The Quit India movement marked a new direction in the struggle against the British colonial rule in India. Analyse. **(150 words) 10**
भारत छोड़ो आंदोलन ने भारत में ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक शासन के विरूद्ध संघर्ष में एक नई दिशा को चिन्हित किया। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Quit India movement marked the most forceful and widespread phase of the Indian national movement.

New direction set by QIM

1) It witnessed use of more violent means than ever before, reflected in Gandhiji's slogan of "Do or Die".

2) Participation was more spontaneous, as major leaders were in jail. Young leaders like Aruna Asaf Ali, JP Narayan, Biju Patnaik, Usha Mehta emerged.

3) The demand was for immediate and complete independence, rejecting

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any control over the process without Indian participation.

4) Communal unity witnessed during the Non-Cooperation Movement was missing.

5) Marked the highest divergence of communist groups from the freedom struggle - CPI refused to participate as Russia was an Allied power.

6) Weakened the bureaucracy and armed forces, with loyalty to British among loyalist classes also diminishing.

Thus the QIM was the final mass movement before Independence was achieved.

For Eicha Kulkarni(eichakulkarni98@gmail.com)

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3. The end of World War II marked the birth of a new international order. Examine. **(150 words) 10**
द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के अंत ने एक नई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था को जन्म दिया। परीक्षण कीजिए।

The end of World War II created a new international order, with different power relations and capabilities of countries.

Features of New International Order

1) The era of British supremacy and European dominance was over. The US and USSR emerged as new superpowers based on their economic and military strength.

2) Weakened European position led to worldwide decolonisation, with the emergence of newly independent countries in Asia and Africa.

3) The UN was created, with all major powers committed to the

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principle of multilateral cooperation unlike the League of Nations.

4) The security situation was transformed with the invention of nuclear weapons, preventing further desires for war.

5) A cold war developed among the superpowers, accompanied by a race to develop nuclear arms.

6) A system of blocs developed, led by the superpowers, which was countered by the Non-Aligned Movement.

Thus the post-WWII world order was radically different from the one preceding the war.

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4. The Simla Agreement (1972) and Lahore Declaration (1999) are two key milestones in the history of the Indian subcontinent. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

शिमला समझौता (1972) और लाहौर घोषणा-पत्र (1999) भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप के इतिहास में दो महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धियां हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

The prospects of the Indian subcontinent hinge heavily on the state of India-Pakistan relations. Thus two milestone agreements between the nations are important in its history:

Simla Agreement, 1972

- The agreement on treating the Kashmir dispute bilaterally removed the possibility of direct external interference by extra-regional powers on the subcontinent.

- The decision to reverse the territorial gains made and revert back to the Line of Control created

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legitimacy for the LoC and marked a magnanimous gesture by India that could secure stability in the subcontinent.

Lahore Declaration, 1999

- The agreement for states to take measures against terrorist groups was a step towards security in the subcontinent.
- A commitment was also made to strengthen SAARC, the only regional organisation covering the whole subcontinent.

While these agreements were milestones, however, they have been violated, and deterioration of India-Pakistan relations has held back regional integration of the subcontinent.

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5. Social security should not only involve economic empowerment but also social empowerment. Discuss in the context of India. **(150 words) 10**
सामाजिक सुरक्षा में न केवल आर्थिक सशक्तीकरण अपितु सामाजिक सशक्तीकरण भी सम्मिलित होना चाहिए। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Social security refers to the creation of safety nets for citizens that prevent sudden fall into poverty and related deprivations. Thus it seeks to ensure a minimum standard of living.

Economic empowerment for social security

- Minimum wages
- Health insurance
- Pension schemes
- Loan facilitation
- Micro-credit

Need for parallel social ~~security~~ empowerment

- To ensure that benefits of economic empowerment reach even marginalised sections, social empowerment is needed
  e.g. Stand Up India scheme for women,

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SC, ST entrepreneurship development.

- To ensure that gains made by economic empowerment are sustained in the long term, measures like education and healthcare infrastructure are necessary that enable human capital formation

- To enable people to be active participants in their own empowerment, rather than passive beneficiaries

Thus social empowerment is needed to make the measures taken under economic empowerment inclusive, sustainable, and participatory

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6. Explain with examples how globalisation is manifested in both local in the global and the global in the local. **(150 words) 10**
उदाहरण देते हुए स्पष्ट कीजिए कि वैश्वीकरण वैश्विक में स्थानीय और स्थानीय में वैश्विक, दोनों में किस प्रकार प्रकट होता है।

Globalisation refers to a process of growing interdependence and interconnectedness among countries affecting all aspects of people's lives.

Local in the global means that specific elements of various national societies are distributed globally.

1) Yoga has become globalised in the cultural sphere.

2) Products made in China are found globally, reflecting the presence of China's local economy worldwide.

3) Local political events also have

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increased global impacts, such as the US elections whose outcome affects every country.

Global in the local means that a global culture develops in various spheres that enters local contexts

1) Proliferation of fast food chains like McDonald's displacing local options and affecting local consumer choices

2) Western values related to family and relationships seen as preferable to local traditions.

Thus globalisation has generated a new process of "glocalisation" marked by the above two phenomena.

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7. In light of persistence of various forms of violence against women in India, discuss the ways in which the issue can be addressed effectively.
(150 words) 10

भारत में महिलाओं के विरूद्ध हिंसा के विभिन्न रूपों की विद्यमानता के आलोक में, उन उपायों की विवेचना कीजिए जिनसे इस मुद्दे का प्रभावी ढंग से समाधान किया जा सकता है।

1 in 3 women in India is reported to have faced violence. The NCRB report of 2018 shows an annual increase of over 7% in crimes against women. Thus the persistence of this menace is clear.

Effective measures

1) Legally, certainty of punishment is a better deterrent than its severity. Thus cases must be decided within fixed timeframes utilising Special Fast Track courts.

2) Administratively, mechanisms must be created for easy and safe reporting

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by victims, as reflected in the helpline launched by the NCW after domestic violence shot up during the COVID lockdown.

3) Measures like alert booths on dangerous roads, as done in Pune.

4) Training should be imparted on awareness and self-defence in schools.

Besides these, long term measures are necessary, such as-

1) Arresting declining child sex ratio (913:1000)

2) Implementing Justice Verma Committee guidelines on procedures as well as marital rape.

3) Empowering NCW to issue orders that are binding

4) Raising awareness among youth.

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8. What is an urban forest? Highlight its benefits and steps taken by the government to promote urban forestry in India. (150 words) 10
शहरी वन क्या हैं? इनके लाभों और भारत में शहरी वानिकी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Urban forests are patches of land in cities given over to planned, limited vegetation.

e.g. Aarey forest in Mumbai, Karje forest in Pune

Benefits

1) Counters air pollution in big cities
2) Reduces urban heat island effect
3) Buffer against urban floods
4) Potential as tourist spots and for community activities

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5) Allows participation of local communities in management.

Measures to promote urban forestry

1) Green development is a component of the Smart Cities mission.

2) Apps like m-Hariyali to promote green drives and tree planting.

3) Programs for community tree-planting like Haritha Haram in Telangana.

Urban forestry is a valuable short-term tool to improve the sustainability of rapidly growing cities.

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9. How has globalization impacted the location of the IT industry? (150 words) 10

वैश्वीकरण ने IT उद्योग की अवस्थिति को किस प्रकार प्रभावित किया है?

Globalisation has impacted the location of the IT industry more than most other industries.

Impact on IT industry location

- Outsourcing of IT jobs has taken place, from the bases of big IT firms, mostly in the US and Europe, to developing countries like India. This has created employment in receiver countries, generated FDI flows, and led to development of "IT hubs" in countries like India, Vietnam, Nigeria
- Spillover effects have been seen, with cities extending as a result

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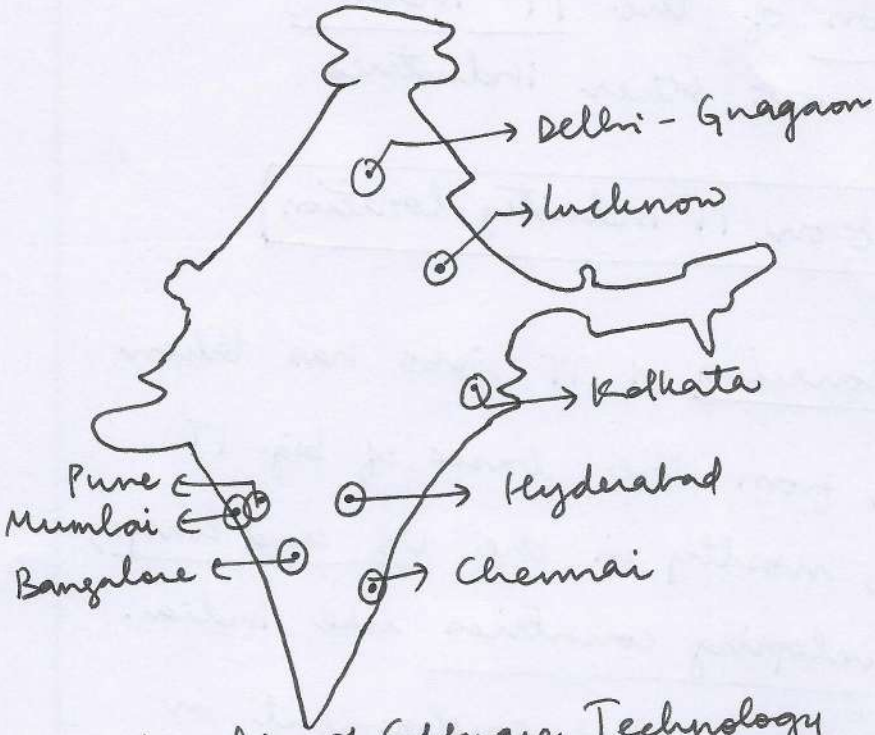
of relocation of IT industries, as seen in Hyderabad, Gurgaon etc.



Location of Software Technology Parks ("IT Hubs")

Equally, the development of these industries has also intensified globalisation by giving rise to agglomeration economies, as reflected in the emergence of Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

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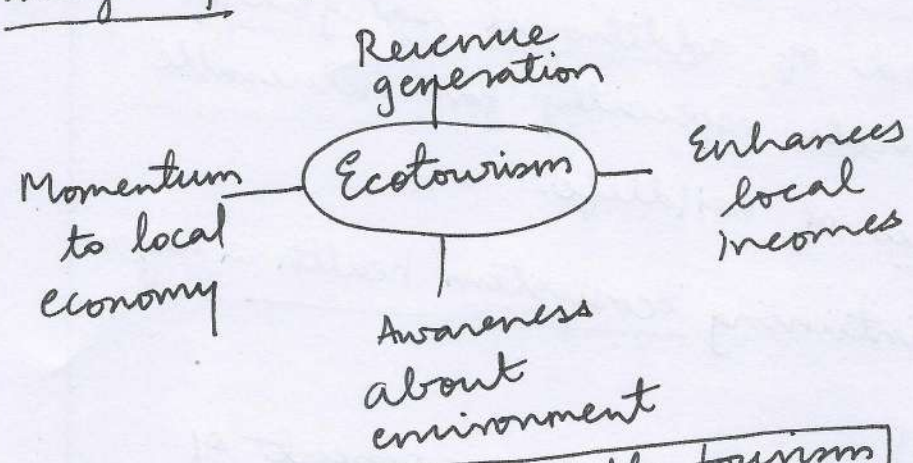
10. How can eco-tourism be used to sustainably harness the potential of tourism industry in India? Discuss the challenges and steps taken by the government in this context. (150 words) 10

भारत में पर्यटन उद्योग की क्षमता का संधारणीय रूप से दोहन करने हेतु पारिस्थितिकीय पर्यटन का कैसे उपयोग किया जा सकता है? इससे जुड़ी चुनौतियों और इस संदर्भ में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Ecotourism refers to tourism activities that leverage the attraction of natural landscapes as tourist spots while protecting ecological integrity of affected areas.



Ecotourism for sustainable tourism

1) Implementation of strict restrictions on tourist volume and activities

2) Partnering with local communities

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to provide tourism packages such as homestays, personally guided tours etc.

3) Encouraging private companies to deliver services through incentives.

Challenges

1) Keeping ecotourism profitable while restricting the number of tourists.

2) Need of additional safeguard protocols especially for vulnerable species of wildlife.

3) Maintaining ecosystem health in long run

Steps

- Eco-tourism forms a component of schemes such as Dekho Apna Desh
- Promotion of less popular spots such as Living Root Bridges of Meghalaya.

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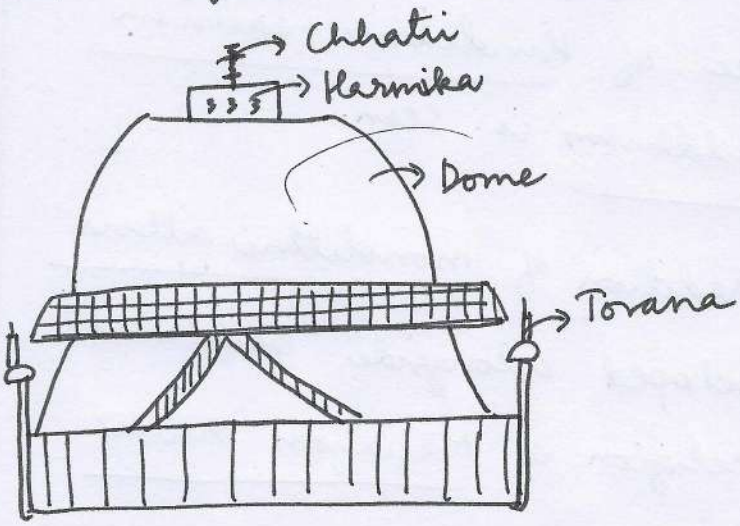
11. The advent of Buddhism and Jainism was instrumental in the development of architecture in ancient India. Discuss. (250 words) 15
प्राचीन भारत में स्थापत्य कला के विकास में बौद्ध धर्म और जैन धर्म का उद्भव सहायक रहा। चर्चा कीजिए।

Buddhism and Jainism had a critical impact on architecture development in ancient India, starting majorly from the Mauryan period.

Buddhism & Architecture

(a) Buddhist stupas laid the foundation of places of worship and religious participation in India.



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- Decoration found on toranas shows the start of the tradition of narrative reliefs in Indian architecture
- The dome has also become a staple of architecture, found in Indo-Islamic architecture

(b) Buddhist chaityas and viharas were found as monolithic rock-cut caves, with narrative reliefs as well as frescoes. In Ellora, a confluence of Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism is seen.

(c) The tradition of monolithic pillars also developed alongside Buddhism as the religion of Mauryan rulers

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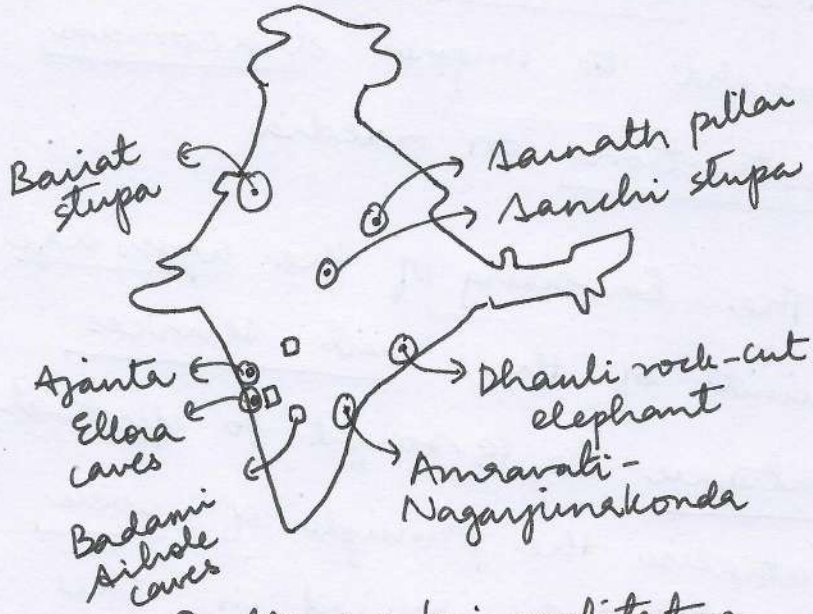
e.g. Depiction of dhammachakrapravartana on the Sarnath pillar built by Ashoka.

Jainism & Architecture

Jain architecture is found almost everywhere in India except the hills.

- Jains also built massive rock-cut caves.
- The Gomateshwara statue at Sravana Belagola is a pinnacle of Indian art.



Buddhist & Jain architecture

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12. The reactionary policies of Lord Lytton and the liberal policies of his successor Lord Rippon acted as catalyst in the formation of the Indian National Congress. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

लॉर्ड लिटन की प्रतिक्रियावादी नीतियों और उसके उत्तराधिकारी लॉर्ड रिपन की उदार नीतियों ने भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस के गठन में उत्प्रेरक का कार्य किया। चर्चा कीजिए।

The activities of the Indian National Congress in its early phases were catalysed by several policies of the British administration.

Reactionary policies of Lord Lytton

(1876 - 80)

1) The Vernacular Press Act, 1878 sought to impose draconian restrictions on media

2) The lowering of the upper age limit of the civil services entrance to 18 sought to effectively neutralise the principle of open competition recognised in the

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Charter Act of 1854.

3) The Arms Act sought to control growing nationalist and regional militancy such as the Ramosi Peasant force.

4) The military action in Afghanistan imposed fruitless costs on the Indian exchequer.

- These policies served as a catalyst to the INC by giving them ample scope to demand reforms after 1885.
- They also led to resentment among people, helping expose the contradiction between Indian and British interests.

Liberal policies of Lord Ripon

1880 – 84

1) Repeal of the Vernacular Press Act.

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2) Reforms in local self-government, allowing higher allocations and autonomy to local bodies.

3) Factory Act, 1881 imposing working conditions requirements.

4) Attempted to pass Ilbert Bill to bring equality before law.

• These policies gave impetus to the INC by igniting confidence among both leaders and people that administration could be responsive.

• Press freedom allowed wider dissemination of ideas, leading up to formation of INC as an all-India platform.

Thus both sets of policies provided fertile ground for the formation of the INC.

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13. Gandhiji changed his methods of struggle against the British from time-to-time to suit the varied circumstances and problems that needed to be tackled. Analyse. (250 words) 15

गांधी जी ने विभिन्न परिस्थितियों और समस्याओं जिनसे निपटने की आवश्यकता थी, के अनुकूल समय-समय पर अंग्रेजों के विरूद्ध संघर्ष की अपनी विधियों में परिवर्तन किया। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Gandhiji was not just a great leader and philosopher, but also a master political strategist. His methods of struggle were designed to force the British into a position advantageous for the national movements.

1) Pleas & petitions in South Africa against injustices meted out to Indians, where Indians were also a poor minority.

2) He evolved satyagraha after witnessing the capacity of masses to suffer given a worthy cause.

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3) In early days in India, he undertook indiindual fast and non-cooperation, as seen in Kheda and Champaran when his influence as a leader had not been fully established.

4) In the Non-Cooperation Movement, he called for boycott of goods and institutions, picketing to enable masses to participate, knowing that public anger was high and needed a channel. Women and students could thus get involved.

5) In the lull phase after a mass movement, he advocated for constructive work to keep up nationalist fervour, and yet allow momentum to be slowly built up.

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Together this Compriced the "struggle-truce - struggle" (STS) strategy.

6) Recognising the Quit India Movement as the final phase of mass struggle and being aware of weakened British hold over institutions, he sanctioned even violence, as reflected in "do or die".

7) During agitations by peasants and workers, he chose compromise and institutional methods like tribunals to find quick solutions and prevent repression from the state, while giving the British a way out of their stand

Thus Gandhiji applied a variety of methods based on his awareness of circumstances and the "pulse of the people".

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14. Bring out the relationship between the industrial revolution and the advent of imperialism in different parts of the world. (250 words) 15
औद्योगिक क्रांति और विश्व के विभिन्न भागों में साम्राज्यवाद के आरंभ के मध्य संबंधों को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

The industrial revolution and the spread of imperialism had a two-way cause and effect relationship.

Industrial Revolution enabled Imperialism

1) The surplus production and need for ~~raw~~ markets and raw materials took the UK, and later other European powers in search of colonies in Asia and later Africa.

2) Need for cash crops led to huge plantations, with workers from the slave trade, mainly in coastal Africa.

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3) Industrial revolution gave rise to rich capitalists, who became investors in colonies in the phase of finance capital imperialism.

4) Introduction of railroad, telegraph, and modern machinery helped cement British administration in India. These were products of the industrial revolution.

Imperialism enabled industrial revolution

1) The availability of markets under the control of colonial powers, with high tariffs on colonies' exports and effectively zero duties on imports provided superprofits, enabling speedy growth of industries such as

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textiles and steel, especially in England.

2) Indentured labour was taken from colonies, which also kept domestic labour cheap in colonial nations.

3) Raw materials were procured by forcing agriculturists to grow cash crops.

The search for markets by later-industrialising countries like Germany and Italy also served to intensify imperialism, reflected in the "Scramble for Africa"

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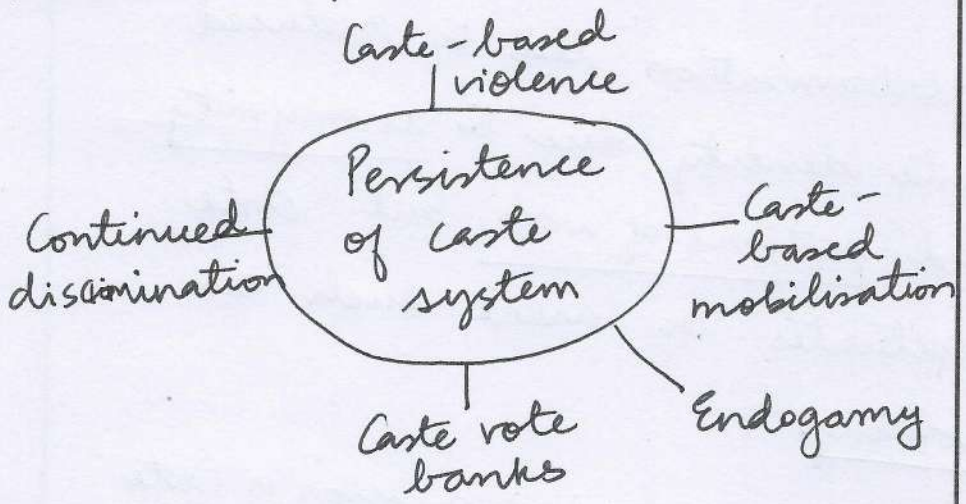
15. The caste system in India has continued to persist by adapting itself to a variety of changing socio-economic and political conditions in the past few decades. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में जाति व्यवस्था विगत कुछ दशकों में परिवर्तित होती विभिन्न सामाजिक-आर्थिक और राजनीतिक स्थितियों के अनुरूप अपने आपको ढालकर विद्यमान है। चर्चा कीजिए।

In spite of measures taken by the state and civil society to reduce the impact of caste on lives of people, the caste system continues to persist.



Adaptation to Socio-Economic Changes

i) Reservations served to bring prosperity and status to several

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households belonging to scheduled castes. However, these benefits accrue to relatively more privileged sub-castes as well as those financially better off.

- Thus internal hierarchies within scheduled caste groups enable it to persist.

2) Urbanisation led to reduced caste identity due to anonymity and patterns of work, but caste perpetuates in areas such as housing.

3) While outward expression of caste bias has been discouraged and made illegal (Atrocities Act), the largest driver of the caste system is endogamy which takes place in private

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Adaptation to Political Changes

1) Provision of reservations leads to increased caste consciousness in the electoral process, based on promises made by parties to consolidate vote-banks.

2) Emergence of alliances among castes for political gains, such as "MAJGAR" (Muslim - Jat - Gujjar - Rajput) in North India.

3) Caste groups are dominant forces in state politics.

While the Constitution banned untouchability, the caste system could not be banned due to the imperatives of affirmative action. Thus it falls to people and leaders to prevent its strengthening.

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16. It is argued by some that regionalism is a threat to national integrity while others consider it as a highly impactful tool in facilitating political participation. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

कुछ लोगों द्वारा यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि क्षेत्रवाद राष्ट्रीय अखंडता के लिए एक खतरा है, जबकि अन्य लोग इसे राजनीतिक सहभागिता को सुगम बनाने में एक अति प्रभावशाली साधन मानते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Regionalism refers to the emergence of political loyalties focused on a particular region.

Regionalism as a threat to national integrity

1) Regionalism can lead to separatist and secessionist movements.
E.g. Khalistan, Dravida Nadu,

2) Narrow regional interests take priority over broader national interest.

3) Leads to disputes between states, impeding development.
e.g. river water disputes

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4) Prevents free flow of people and commerce, as guaranteed by Articles 19 and 301 respectively

e.g. Movements against "Outsiders" by Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, locals' reservations in private jobs.

5) Can be politically exploited by opportunist leaders distracting from developmental goals.

Tool to facilitate political participation

1) Brings issues close to people into focus, spurring participation

2) Enables emergence of regional leaders with intimate knowledge of the region's issues who may enter national politics.

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3) Recognising regional diversities and identities of people within the national framework strengthens the principle of "unity in diversity" and imparts sense of security to people.

4) Recognising regional interests and making accommodations prevents public cynicism and disaffection.

Thus, while regionalism carries potential threats, it can be channelled properly to strengthen national integrity rather than ~~handle~~ undermine it

e.g. Statehood to Mizoram quelled separatism in 1986.

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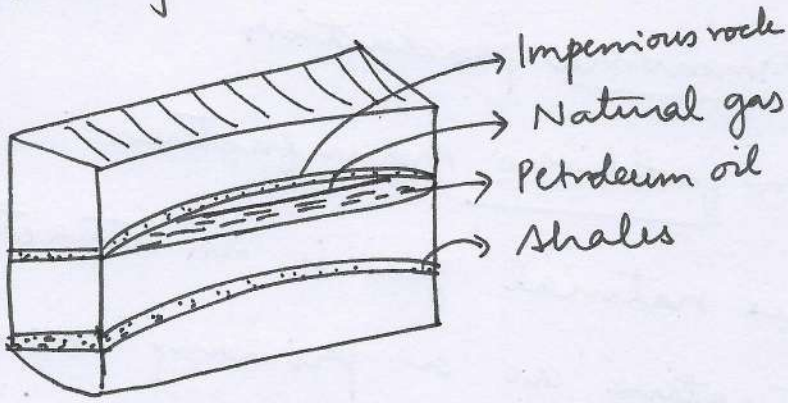
17. Natural gas has become an important primary energy source and its consumption is projected to increase further. Identify various usages of natural gas and give a brief account of its distribution globally.

(250 words) 15

प्राकृतिक गैस एक महत्वपूर्ण प्राथमिक ऊर्जा स्रोत बन गया है तथा इसके उपभोग में आगे और वृद्धि होने का अनुमान है। प्राकृतिक गैस के विभिन्न उपयोगों की पहचान कीजिए और विश्व स्तर पर इसके वितरण का संक्षिप्त विवरण दीजिए।

• Natural gas is a mixture of methane and ethane found along with petroleum reserves as well as independently.



• When found with mineral oil, it is known as "associated gas"

• It is also found as "sour gas" in mixture with nitrogen compounds or hydrogen sulphides.

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Uses of natural gas

1) Electric power generation
2) Fuel for transportation as Compressed Natural Gas, as an alternative to petrol and diesel.
3) City Gas Distribution Networks (CGDs) for domestic and commercial use.
4) Ammonia production
5) In fertilisers' manufacture

Thus natural gas is an attractive alternative as a primary energy source.

Global Distribution

- Russia has the largest reserves of natural gas, especially in the Siberian reserves

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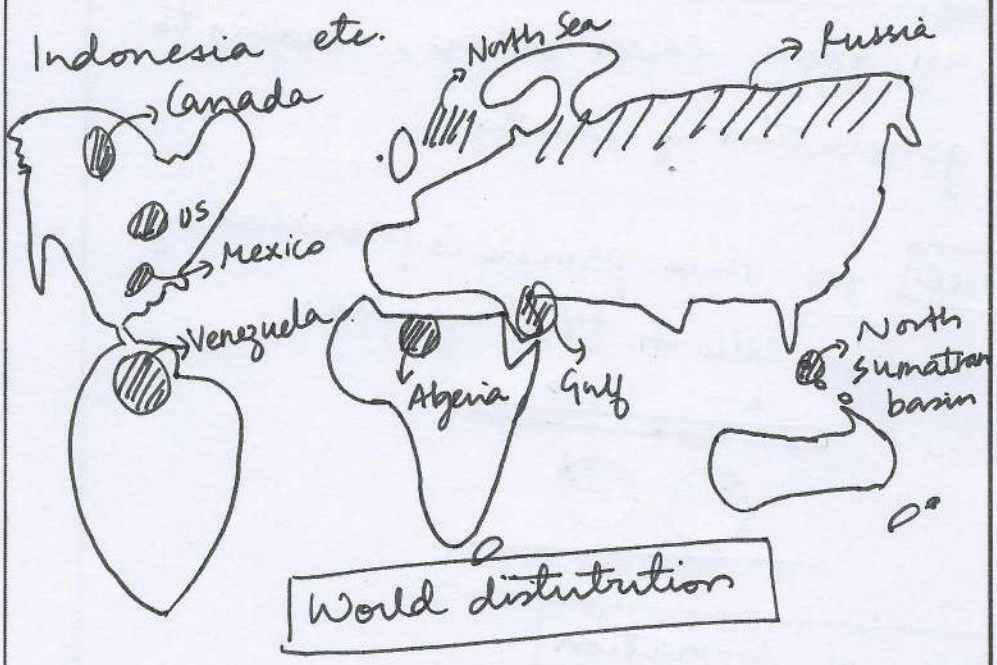
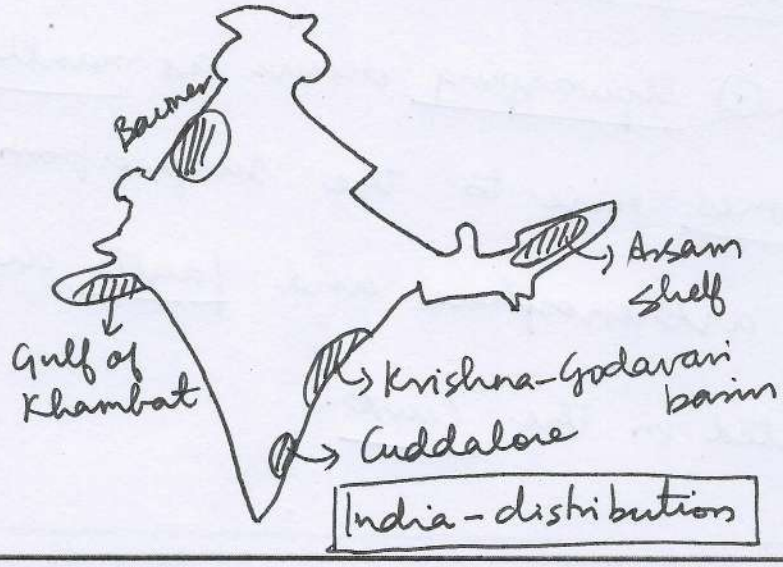
- US, Canada, Venezuela, and the Persian gulf have natural gas along with petroleum reserves.
- Also found in deposits in North Sea, Indonesia etc.



World distribution



India - distribution

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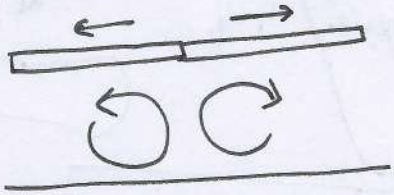
18. Describe the process of rift valley formation, with special emphasis on the Great Rift Valley System. **(250 words) 15**

महान भ्रंश घाटी प्रणाली पर विशेष बल देते हुए, भ्रंश घाटी के निर्माण की प्रक्रिया का वर्णन कीजिए।

• Rift valleys are formed at divergent plate boundaries where plates move away from each other, leading to a generation of crust.

Force for this process is provided by convection cells in the mantle.



Process of formation

Stage ① Upwarping occurs as mantle plumes rise to the surface from the asthenosphere and faults are created in the crust.

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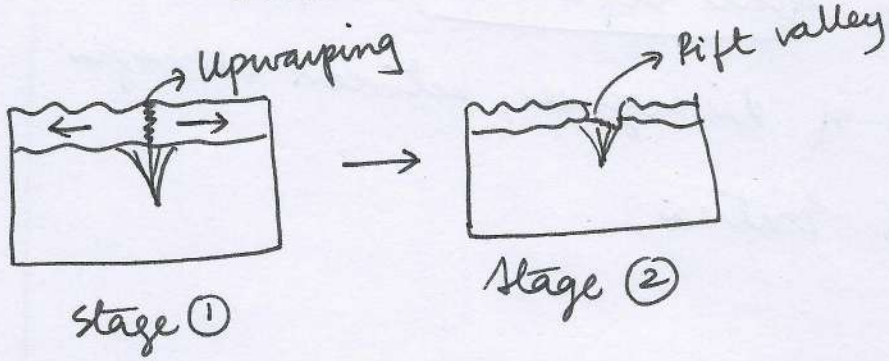
Stage ② Faulting creates an extensive rift system.

- Lithosphere is stretched, becoming thinner.
- Accompanied by volcanism and seismic disturbances

At this stage, rift valleys are formed.

Stage ③ Rift lakes as valleys deepen

Stage ④ Ocean replaces continental crust.



Thus rift valleys are the intial stages of continental breakup.

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Great Rift Valley

- This system is formed by the break up of the African plate, marked by the divergence of the Somalian and Nubian plates.
- Contains volcanic regions of Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Kenya.
- The Afar Depression marks a site of divergence, between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

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19. India's water resources have witnessed rapid depletion due to a mix of economic, geographic, and political factors. Explain and discuss its implications. (250 words) 15

भारत के जल संसाधनों में विभिन्न आर्थिक, भौगोलिक और राजनीतिक कारकों के संयोजन के कारण तेजी से ह्रास देखा गया है। स्पष्ट कीजिए एवं इसके निहितार्थों की विवेचना कीजिए।

- India has 4% of the world's water resources and over 1/6th of the world's population.
- According to the CGWB, most major Indian cities are water-stressed due to rapid depletion.

Economic factors

1) Groundwater extraction for purposes of irrigation as well as industrial use has led to fall in the water table.

2) Urban encroachment on lakes in cities has reduced availability

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of surface and near-surface water

3) Lack of use-efficient tariff system promotes irresponsible use.

4) Virtual net export of water via agricultural products.

Geographic factors

1) Not all hydro-power potential has been harnessed optimally due to settlements and environmental risks.

2) Emergence of concrete jungles without rainwater harvesting facilities prevents harnessing heavy monsoon rains to store water.

Political factors

1) Disputes over river water sharing

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are dragged on delaying dam development.

e.g. Kaveri water dispute, Satluj-Yamuna link canal

2) Waivers on use of water for agricultural usage as a political promise encourages irresponsible use.

Implications of water depletion

- Unavailability of cheap drinking water
- Reduction in agricultural yields
- Ecological imbalance
- Falling groundwater table

Thus water resource depletion needs to be arrested through efficient use policies as well as technological innovations

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20. How are plateaus formed? Also, briefly discuss the features of the Deccan plateau and its economic significance. **(250 words) 15**
पठार का निर्माण कैसे होता है? साथ ही, दक्कन के पठार की विशेषताओं और इसके आर्थिक महत्व की संक्षेप में विवेचना कीजिए।

Plateaus are flat-topped tablelands found in every continent, that reach elevations higher than surrounding plains.

Formation occurs in three ways-

1) Thermal expansion of lithosphere
· When the lithosphere underlying an area is heated rapidly by upwelling mantle plumes, the overlying surface gets uplifted.
e.g. Ethiopian highlands

2) Crustal shortening
· Upliftment due to up-thrusting of a tectonic plate at a convergent boundary.

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e.g. Tibetan plateau

3) Volcanic flood basalts

- Where extensive lava flows bury terrain
- Usually the lava is carried over long distances
- Common from cenozoic and mesozoic era eruptions.

e.g. Deccan traps

Deccan plateau

- Formed by basaltic lava outflows.
- Part of Indian peninsular plateau along with the Central Highlands and Chhota Nagpur Plateau.

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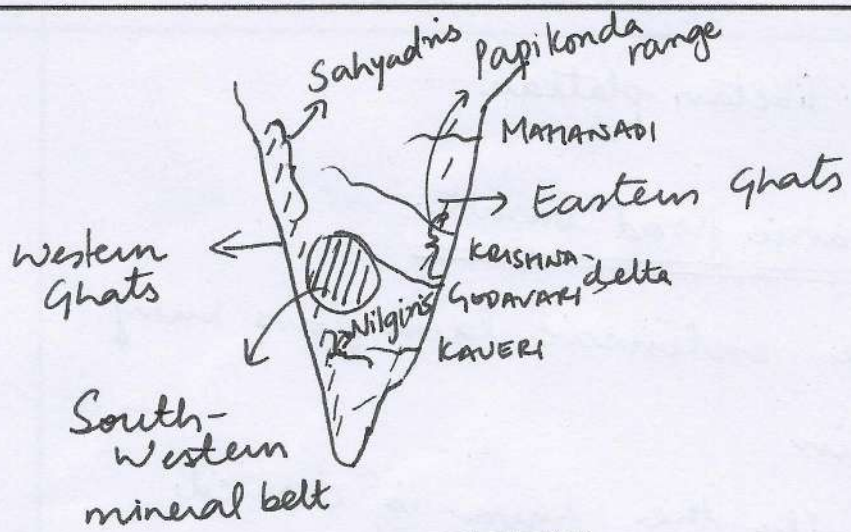

Economic Significance

1) Concentration of mineral ores, such as bauxite and iron ore in the Karnataka plateau.

2) Coal seams in river deltas

3) Hydropower potential along Godavari river

4) Densely forested areas along Western Ghats have forest resources.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1523)

Name of Candidate	RICHA KULKARNI		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	708164
Center	ONLINE	Date	22/12/20

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
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12	15	
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14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Enumerate the issues associated with functioning of the Central Information Commission. How can these issues be addressed?

(150 words) 10

केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग की कार्य प्रणाली से संबद्ध मुद्दों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। इन मुद्दों का कैसे समाधान किया जा सकता है?

The Central Information Commission is constituted under the Right to Information Act, 2005 as the apex body for its enforcement.

Role
- Policy suggestions to government
- Entertain appeals against rejections
- Monitor work of SICs, Public Information Officers etc.

Issues	Measures
1) Vacancies and dominance of bureaucratic members	Including judicial members in bipartisan selection committee; at least 50% non-civil service members (2nd ARC)

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Issues	Measures
2) Large pendency of appeals – over 2 lakh pending – and delays	Dispersal in at least 4 states, as permitted under Act (2nd ARC)
3) Erosion of Independence feared due to 2019 Amendments – salary and term determined by Centre	Make statutory provisions for salary and term under Act, to be determined transparently
4) Arbitrary rejections by PIOs of RTI requests	Give CIC powers to enforce, not just monitor PIOs (2nd ARC)
5) Suggestions ignored by government	Set up parliamentary committee to consider.

The CIC forms a bulwark of democracy. Strengthening it is necessary for transparent and good governance.

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2. In India, Governor's discretionary powers are wider than those of the President. Elaborate. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में, राज्यपाल की विवेकाधीन शक्तियाँ राष्ट्रपति की तुलना में अधिक व्यापक हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

The Governor and President occupy comparable positions at the state and Union level, but the Governor has both constitutional and situational discretion while the President has only the latter.

Situational discretion common to both

- Choice of PM / CM in case of sudden death
- Choice in case of fall of majority
- Choice in case of hung legislature

· The 42nd Amendment made ~~gave~~ the President ~~the power~~ bound by ministerial advice to ~~send~~ / ~~back~~ a Bill ~~only once~~, but placed no restrictions on the Governor to comply.

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Wider powers of governor (Constitutional discretion)

1. Recommending imposition of President's Rule in the state
2. Reserving bills for President's assent
3. As administrator for adjoining UTs
4. Special responsibility for welfare, law and order in some states - approving laws under Sixth Schedule Autonomous Councils.

Thus the Governor exercises more discretion than the President. The Sarkaria Commission, Punchhi commission as well as the SC in SR Bommai case, advised principled exercise of discretion to preserve federal polity.

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3. Highlight the objectives that were sought to be achieved through tribunals. How successful have they been in meeting them? **(150 words) 10**
उन उद्देश्यों को रेखांकित कीजिए जिन्हें अधिकरणों के माध्यम से प्राप्त करने का प्रयास किया गया था। वे उन्हें पूर्ण करने में कितने सफल रहे हैं?

Tribunals are constituted under Articles 323 A (administrative) and 323 B (other matters). They are quasi-judicial authorities dispensing judgements based on principles of natural justice and flexible procedure

Objectives

1. Reducing pendency in courts
2. Fast-tracking urgent matters
3. Bringing expertise into judgements e.g. National Green Tribunal, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal
4. Streamlining government's litigation as parties are often government agencies.
5. Leave constitutional courts with more time for constitutional cases.

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Performance

1. Judicial pendency has not significantly reduced - SC has upheld right of appeals to High Courts (Chandra Kumar case), making appeals a matter of norm.

2. Vacancies in tribunals lead to delays.

3. Complaints about biased awards as many are under related ministries

Way Ahead

· Law Commission recommendations such as a National Tribunal Commission staffed by judicial officers, and delinking from related ministries may be considered to enable tribunals to fulfill their intended objectives

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4. Instead of the government regulating Over-the-top (OTT) platforms, there have been calls for a self-regulating mechanism for such platforms, as in the case of print media. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

सरकार द्वारा ओवर-द-टॉप (ओ.टी.टी.) प्लेटफॉर्म्स को विनियमित करने के स्थान पर, ऐसे प्लेटफॉर्म्स के लिए एक स्व-विनियमन तंत्र हेतु आह्वान किया गया है, जैसे कि प्रिंट मीडिया के मामले में किया गया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The government has recently notified regulation of OTT platforms under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Need for regulation by government-

1. Need for certification and grading of content in accordance with national laws.
2. To bring parity with television and film media which are government regulated
3. Dominance of foreign companies (Netflix, Amazon, Disney-Hotstar) - to protect Indian industry.

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Arguments for self-regulation

1. Government regulation may curb freedom of expression and creativity - as seen in regular complaints against CBFC.

2. OTT platforms are on-demand, meaning that consumers are conscious of what they choose to watch

3. Companies are mindful of national laws to avoid litigation.

4. Experience of print media - standards of quality and ethics have by and large been maintained

5. May encourage FDI and employment

OTT platforms represent the next shift in entertainment media in India. Care must be taken not to suppress their growth, while enforcing standards.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5. Bring out the arguments surrounding the issue of some states reserving jobs for locals in the private sector. **(150 words) 10**

कुछ राज्यों द्वारा निजी क्षेत्रक में नौकरियों को स्थानीय लोगों के लिए आरक्षित किए जाने से संबंधित मुद्दे के चतुर्दिक तर्कों को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

States like Andhra Pradesh have recently attempted to reserve private sector jobs for locals.

Reasons

1. Low employment and skill development
2. Agrarian distress compounding unemployment
3. Perception that migrants reduce opportunities for locals.
4. Populist motivations of state governments.
5. Perceived discrimination by locals on migration to other states.
6. To give impetus to local economy through demand creation.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Arguments against

1. Reservations in employment are permitted under Constitution only by Parliament and only in public sector under Article 16.

2. Increases load of training locals on companies, reducing investments in the long term.

3. Against right to freedom of Companies and migrant workers.

4. Reduced ease of doing business, a big disadvantage while states compete to attract investors.

Given the spirit of national integration enshrined in the Constitution, such a policy is harmful to states themselves in the long run. Focus would be better placed on boosting skill development and employability of locals.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. Identifying the key elements of Mission Karmayogi, briefly explain how it can lead to holistic development of the human resources and state's capacity. **(150 words) 10**

मिशन कर्मयोगी के प्रमुख तत्वों की पहचान करते हुए, संक्षेप में स्पष्ट कीजिए कि इससे मानव संसाधन और राज्य की क्षमता का समग्र विकास कैसे हो सकता है।

Mission Karmayogi is the newly introduced National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building.

Key Components

1. From "rules-based" to "roles-based" HR management
2. Building sectoral domain competencies throughout career (fulfilling recommendation of Yugandhar committee)
3. Overarching authority for all civil services training centres
4. PM's Public HR Council for policy direction
5. Training modules through iGOT platform.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Impacts on human resources

1. Can bring specialisation to generalist services.
2. Reform work culture by rewarding good performance.
3. Equipping civil servants to leverage emerging technology, modes of communication etc.

Impacts on state capacity

1. Better implementation of policies due to expertise among bureaucrats.
2. Better information flows at all levels
3. Better integration across various services

The need for civil services reform was recognised by the second ARC. Mission Karmayogi, with adequate resources and allocation of responsibilities, can help modernise the bureaucracy.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

7. Highlighting the role played by ASHA workers in public health system of India, discuss the challenges faced by them. (150 words) 10
भारत की सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली में आशा कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका को रेखांकित करते हुए, उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) are frontline community health workers, forming the first contact between people and the public health system.

Role

1) Counselling and information on newborn care, breastfeeding, nutrition etc. to pregnant women and lactating mothers.
2) Coordination with the Panchayat sanitation and health committee.
3) Aiding delivery of health services along with auxiliary nurse midwives at PHCs and Anganwadi workers.
4) Monitoring and information dissemination, especially in COVID-19.

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They are typically local women with primary education.

Challenges

1) Low pay and no social security
2) lack of cooperation from community
3) lack of resources, especially PPE kits during Covid-19 efforts.
4) Poor capacity building and training
5) lack of agency in households

Way Ahead

- Budget allocation for preventive healthcare, presently under 2% of GDP needs to be increased, leading to security and benefits for ASHA workers. Working with private hospitals and NGOs to build capacity would also empower them to function better.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

8. While internationalisation of higher education has many potential benefits for India, certain challenges will need to be addressed in this regard. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

यद्यपि उच्चतर शिक्षा के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के भारत के लिए कई संभावित लाभ हैं, तथापि इस संबंध में कुछ चुनौतियों का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता होगी। चर्चा कीजिए।

Internationalisation of higher education is a pillar of the new National Education Policy.

Internationalisation in NEP
- Graduate programs for Indian students abroad
- Overseas branches of Indian universities
- Indian campuses for foreign universities
- Foreign students in India

Benefits

1) Access to superior courses and research support abroad.
2) Improving employability of students
3) Multiplier effects from foreign university campuses in India - impetus to local education system

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4) Sharing of best practices
5) India as an education destination for Africa and West Asian students (Study in India programme)

Challenges

1) Indian universities rank low on global rankings e.g. Not in top 50 in QS rankings
2) Incompatibility between academic degrees - e.g. Indian medical degrees are not directly acceptable in US
3) Lack of adequate R&D infrastructure
4) Lack of skilled education workforce

Way Ahead

These challenges must be resolved, by increasing budgetary allocation to 6% of GDP as envisaged by the NEP, to make internationalisation beneficial for Indian students and universities

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. India needs to adopt a more pragmatic stance in the context of the ongoing intra-Afghan talks. Discuss, in the light of India's engagement with Afghanistan. **(150 words) 10**

भारत को वर्तमान में जारी अंतरा-अफगान वार्ताओं के संदर्भ में अधिक व्यावहारिक रुख अपनाने की आवश्यकता है। अफगानिस्तान के साथ भारत के जुड़ाव के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

Indias traditional stance in Afghanistan has been an insistence on an "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, Afghan-controlled" process. India has also refused to recognise the Taliban in negotiations

Changing context

1) Withdrawal of US forces after US-Taliban deal
2) Weak position of Afghan government
3) Reality of Taliban control over areas of territory
4) Need to engage with Taliban given closeness of Taliban with Pakistan.
5) Taliban-Afghan government talks

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Pragmatic stance

- India sent an unofficial envoy to the multilateral talks.
- India will have to balance engagement with Taliban along with the elected government, continuing developmental presence.
- Care must also be taken to contain China's influence and debt diplomacy.
- India's own security from terrorist attacks as a pre-condition for engagement with Taliban.

Such a position will enable India to maintain strategic autonomy and safeguard its own interests in the region.

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10. In the geo-strategic context of West Asia, the recent efforts to normalise relations between Israel and UAE may open new possibilities for India. Analyse. **(150 words) 10**

पश्चिम एशिया के भू-रणनीतिक संदर्भ में, इजरायल और यू.ए.ई. के मध्य संबंधों को सामान्य बनाने के लिए हाल ही में किए गए प्रयासों से भारत हेतु नई संभावनाएं उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Abraham Accord between Israel and the UAE mark a breakthrough in West Asia, reducing traditional Arab-Israel hostility.

Factors behind Accord

1) UAE's efforts to diversify economy away from petrol dependence
2) Withdrawal of US from West Asia
3) Closeness between China and Iran (25-year strategic partnership started)
4) Israel's interests in building regional allies

Possibilities for India

1) India is interested in stability in West Asia, to keep oil prices stable

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2) Indian diaspora in West Asia - employment opportunities would be reduced by instability and protectionism

3) India has always supported two-state solution - Israel's agreement to stop annexation of West Bank prevents the collapse of this possibility

4) Trilateral (India - Israel - UAE) and multilateral (India - GCC) cooperation on anti-terror measures where Israel has expertise.

Thus normalisation of Israel - UAE and potentially Israel - Arab relations can bring benefits to India, given that care is taken to balance with India's interests in Iran.

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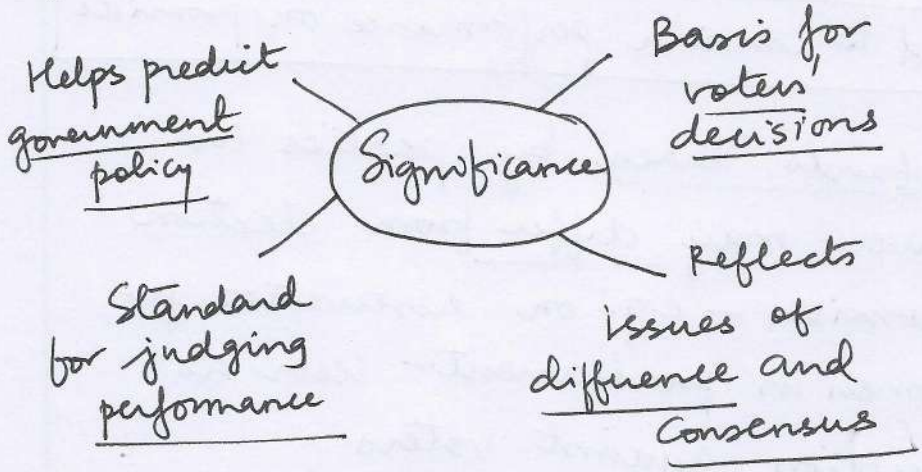
11. It is not only the content of election manifestos but also the past performance with respect to promises made in election manifestos that need to be regulated. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

केवल चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों की विषयवस्तु को ही नहीं, बल्कि चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों में किए गए वादों से संबंधित विगत निष्पादन को भी विनियमित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Election manifestos represent the policies, political positions and promises that parties commit to before elections.



- Demands have been raised to regulate election manifestos to enforce accountability on political parties.

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• Content of manifestos must be regulated to ensure:

(i) Appeals are not made to religion, communal feelings etc.

(ii) Ruling party is not abusing power

(iii) Fair practices are followed in campaigning.

Need to consider performance on promises

1. Stands taken by parties in power may differ from election promises – e.g. on reservation for women in parliament – seen as deception against voters.

2. To curb populism and false promises of freebies and ensure realistic promises are made.

3. To provide objective data, such as a performance score, for the

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

electorate to consider, moving away from choices shaped by caste and community.

4. To focus energies of government on developmental goals.

Challenges

1. Election manifestos are often unrealistically expansive

2. Difficulty of quantifying performance on all fronts of government

3. Advantage to ruling party as it may influence any independent regulator constituted for the purpose

Regulating past performance is a promising step to bring accountability to political parties, along with other reforms such as bringing them under RTI.

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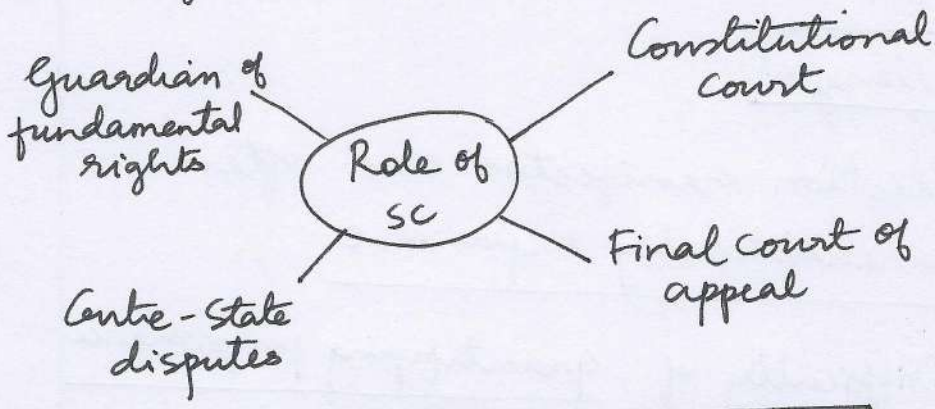
12. In order to achieve a reduction in the pendency of cases and a return to the Supreme Court's original role as a final appellate court, setting up of a National Court of Appeal is the need of the hour. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**
लंबित वादों की संख्या में कमी लाने और उच्चतम न्यायालय को अंतिम अपीलीय न्यायालय के रूप में उसकी मूल भूमिका में पुन: स्थापित करने के लिए, एक राष्ट्रीय अपील न्यायालय स्थापित करना समय की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Judicial pendency is one of the most serious issues plaguing the Indian justice system.



Need for a National Court of Appeal

1. Increasing number of cases going to the SC are writ petitions
2. Delays at the final stages of appeal contribute to high pendency
3. Slow procedure of justice causes costs to public

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4. The Supreme Court itself in the 1980s suggested a bifurcation into Constitutional Court and National Court of Appeal.

5. National Court of Appeal may have regional benches to make justice more accessible to people.

Concerns

1. Fear of dilution of authority of the SC
2. Lack of judicial officers
3. Scope for interference by the executive
4. Distinction between Constitutional cases and purely appellate cases not always clear

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Way Ahead

- A National Court of Appeal will go a long way in making justice more accessible and reducing pendency.

Concerns raised can be addressed through a comprehensive framework.

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13. The Constitution of India reflects an amalgamation of spirit of Indian freedom struggle and various administrative provisions of different acts of British rule in India. Explain. (250 words) 15

भारत का संविधान भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष की भावना और भारत में ब्रिटिश शासन के विभिन्न अधिनियमों के अनेक प्रशासनिक प्रावधानों के मिश्रण को दर्शाता है। व्याख्या कीजिए।

The Constitution of India emerged out of a long socio-political as well as administrative process of evolution.

Spirit of the freedom struggle

1. Universal adult franchise at the very outset of independence.
2. Civil liberties, such as the freedom of speech and expression, freedom of movement under Article 19.
3. Equal opportunity in public employment under Article 16 - a major demand of the freedom struggle.

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4. Affirmative action i.e. reservations in education and public employment, and in representation in legislatures, emerged out of awareness raised about caste system during the freedom struggle.

5. Unitary trend is a result of fears of disintegration and legacy of partition

Administrative acts

1. The Supreme Court is based on the provisions of the 1935 Government of India Act.

2. The UPSC and SPSCs are similar to the Federal Public Service Commission set up by the 1935 Act.

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3. Bicameralism in legislature was introduced in the 1919 Act.

4. The portfolio system of the Council of Ministers is similar to the system in the Viceroy's Executive Council under the 1861 Act.

5. Provisions for preventive detention were instituted under Defence of India Acts during wartime.

While the Constitution carries the legacies of both the freedom struggle and the British administration, it is also a living evolving document.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

14. Mention the key components of the SVAMITVA scheme. Also, highlight its intended benefits and discuss the potential issues in its implementation. **(250 words) 15**

स्वामित्व (SVAMITVA) योजना के प्रमुख अवयवों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, इसके अपेक्षित लाभों को रेखांकित कीजिए तथा इसके कार्यान्वयन में संभावित मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The SVAMITVA scheme aims to achieve integrated land assets mapping and validation in villages.

Key Components

1. Continuously Operating Reference System (CORS) - a network of ground stations to complete the georeferencing process.

2. Drones will be used to map land parcels by the Survey of India.

3. Process of mapping will be integrated with Gram Panchayat

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Development Plans.

4. Programme management units will be created at local levels, coordinating with state authorities

5. Community involvement is encouraged to speed up the process.

Intended benefits

1. Land records can be formalised, leading to assets for the rural population.

2. Ownership of assets can have multiplier effects on rural economy – e.g. encourage entrepreneurship, credit

3. Land acquisition process will be made simpler by clear land titles

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4. Improvement in ease of doing business.

5. Accurate estimation of resources can be made, improving the planning process.

Potential Issues

1. large skilled workforce will be required.

2. High investments in technology - drones, ground control equipment, data analysis etc.

3. May lead to litigation and delays

The scheme has the potential to accomplish a long-standing task pending since independence, which can give long-term impetus to rural economies.

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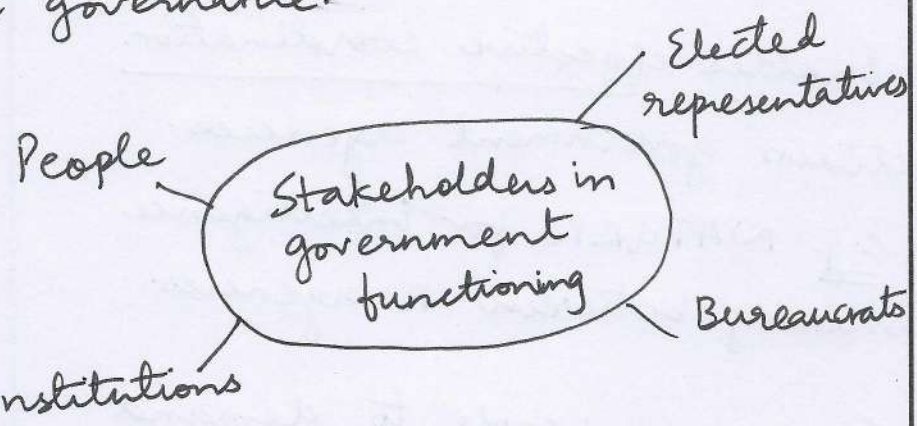
15. Sharing of information among all stakeholders in government functioning is a leading practice towards good governance. Discuss with examples.
(250 words) 15

सरकारी कार्यप्रणाली में सभी हितधारकों के मध्य सूचना को साझा करना सुशासन के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण परिपाटी है। उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Good governance emerged as a paradigm along with economic reforms in India, signifying efficiency, effectiveness and competitiveness in governance.



Benefits of sharing information

1) Openness in sharing enforces accountability of government to people
e.g. RTI

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2) Information flows help inform public policy as well as implement it.

e.g. • Local panchayat inputs being taken in District Development Plans
• Information about schemes disseminated widely

3) Enables effective coordination between government agencies.

e.g. NATGRID for intelligence sharing between 11 agencies.

4) Empowers people to demand their rights and various services

e.g. Rajasthan's Jan Soochna portal discloses performance of various schemes

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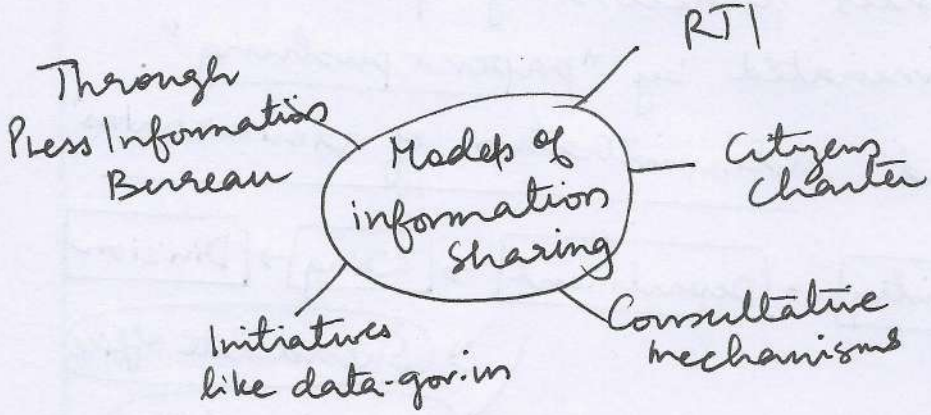
5) Upholds public trust in government, encouraging people to participate proactively.

Challenges to information sharing

1) Lack of suo motu disclosures
2) Bureaucratic culture of secrecy
3) Official Secrets Act → Second ARC recommended repeal
4) Delays in procedures like RTI.



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16. India has an oversized and bloated government which acts as a drag on economic efficiency and growth. Critically evaluate. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में आवश्यकता से अधिक आकार और अतिशय दायित्वों को वहन करने वाली सरकार है, जो आर्थिक दक्षता एवं वृद्धि के संबंध में एक अवरोध के रूप में कार्य करती है। समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

India's governmental set up is often criticised for being oversized, leading to inefficiencies and corruption, and slowing down growth.

Arguments supporting statement

1. Rigid division into hierarchies creates unnecessary positions dominated by "paper-pushing" and "administration of administrators"

Ministry → Department → Wing → Division

Department → Subordinate Office

Department → Attached Office

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2. Vacancies are dragged on for years obstructing tasks and delaying policy implementation, harming business

3. Huge burden of salaries and pensions

4. Engenders corruption by making procedures complicated and time-consuming, causing frustration among citizens

Arguments against

1. Shortages exist in crucial positions such as IAS officers, police personnel, judicial officers etc.

2. Hierarchies are seen as necessary to reduce discretion and arbitrary decision-making.

3. Source of employment for all sections.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Way Ahead

1. Principle of subsidiarity i.e. delegating decision making to lowest possible method as suggested by second ARC.

2. New Public Management framework followed in UK, Australia etc. involving outsourcing of non-core functions.

3. Flattened hierarchies, lateral entry scheme may be considered to a limited extent as suggested by the second ARC.

Reform of the government structure is necessary in parallel with continuing reforms in the economy to improve ease of doing business and ease of living.

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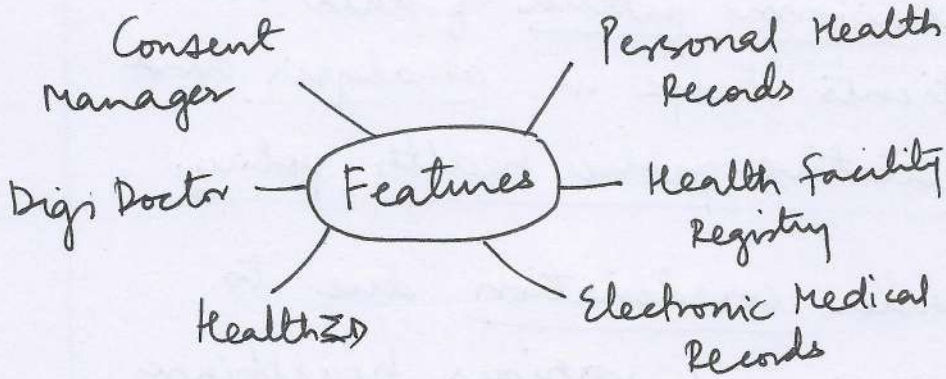
17. Though the National Digital Health Mission is a step in the right direction for both patients and the healthcare system, concerns around data privacy need to be addressed. Examine. **(250 words) 15**

यद्यपि राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य मिशन रोगियों और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली, दोनों के लिए उचित दिशा में उठाया गया एक कदम है, तथापि डेटा गोपनीयता से जुड़ी चिंताओं का समाधान किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) is a pillar of the National Health Policy 2017.



Benefits for patients:

1. Cuts down repetitive documentation
2. Speeds up process by making records accessible through the database
3. Along with Ayushman Bharat, helps easy movement between

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various healthcare institutions as per need.

Benefits for healthcare system

1. Reduces administrative effort, allowing space for more investments in medical aspects.

2. Uniform pattern of data on patients helps in analysis and predictive public health policy.

3. Easier coordination due to directory of various healthcare facilities available.

Concerns about data privacy

1. Medical records, if inadequately protected, may be leaked to third parties such as employers,

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

insurance companies etc.

2. Possibility of discriminatory treatment e.g. people who are HIV-positive.

3. Breach of right to privacy of citizens.

Other Concerns

1. Digital divide among rural and urban areas, men and women etc.

2. Interoperability within IndEA enterprise architecture

Way Ahead

As the NDHM develops, concerns regarding privacy of health data must be addressed, potentially in the framework of the Personal Data Protection Bill. Guidance can be taken from the EU laws on the subject.

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18. One Nation One Ration card has the potential to significantly transform the lives of migrant workers in India. Analyse. **(250 words) 15**
वन नेशन वन राशन कार्ड में भारत में प्रवासी श्रमिकों के जीवन को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से रूपांतरित करने की क्षमता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

One Nation - One Ration card is a measure to universalise the public distribution system in India.

Features

1. Ration card may be used at any fair price shop across the country.
2. Aadhaar linkage of ration card
3. Aadhaar authentication at point-of-sale electronic machines may be required.

• Presently, state-issued ration cards make PDS benefits inaccessible to

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

inter-state migrant workers, leading to hunger and poverty in an already disadvantaged population.

Benefits for migrant workers

1. Food will be available throughout India without lengthy procedure of applying for change in ration card.
2. Safeguards such as 50% withdrawal at a time may be implemented.

Concerns

1. Migrant workers will not be able to access state-specific schemes.
2. Infrastructure investment for ePOS machines.

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3. Concerns regarding corruption in PDS still exist.

Way Ahead

ONORC has great potential if implemented with proper groundwork and planning. Measures such as food coupons can also be considered.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. The World Trade Organization is buffeted by multiple challenges which have eroded the credibility of the organization. Analyse. **(250 words) 15**
विश्व व्यापार संगठन कई चुनौतियों से ग्रस्त है, जिसने संगठन की विश्वसनीयता को समाप्त कर दिया है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The World Trade Organisation is an outcome of the Uruguay round (1995) of the General Agreement on Trade & Tariffs (GATT) system.

Functions of WTO
- Promotes free trade and lower tariffs
- Disputes settlement
- Enforces multilateral agreements of members

Challenges in functioning

1. Stalled progress on the Doha development agenda due to North-South divide on issues of agricultural market access, subsidies etc.

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2. Rising protectionist tendencies across the globe harming free trade.

3. Dependence on US – reflected in paralysed dispute settlement system.

4. Rise of external arrangements between members due to paralysis in WTO – e.g. TTTP, RCEP etc.

5. Fall in global trade due to COVID-19

6. Lack of comprehensive policy on emerging areas such as e-commerce, data economy and localisation norms etc.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Way Ahead

1. Deadlock in dispute settlement system is being sidestepped by Multiparty Interim Arbitration Arrangement - can be made more equitable as demanded by India.

2. May allow multilateral agreements by some members that other members may join later - to avoid delays such as in Doha Round.

3. Reform organisation to give more voice to developing countries.

Given global upheavals, the role of the WTO is more important than ever to maintain a "rules based international order".

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20. BIMSTEC is indispensable for India's efforts in promoting regional cooperation and integration in the neighbourhood. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**
बिम्सटेक (BIMSTEC) पड़ोस में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग और एकीकरण को बढ़ावा देने की दिशा में किए जाने वाले भारत के प्रयासों हेतु अपरिहार्य है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional grouping of littoral states of the Bay of Bengal.

Significance for regional cooperation

1. Growing relevance due to paralysis of SAARC and better track record.

2. Role in balancing China's forays into the region.

3. Potential for cooperation on connectivity, infrastructure, technology transfer etc.

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4. Gateway to South East Asia and ASEAN

Significance ~~of~~ for integration of neighbourhood

1. South Asia has very poor economic regional integration with intra-regional trade less than 5%.

2. Platform for India's Neighbourhood First and Act East policies.

3. Platform to resolve issues hindering neighbourhood integration such as river water disputes.

4. Potential for India - BIMSTEC FTA, made significant by India's need to join FTAs after opting out of RCEP.

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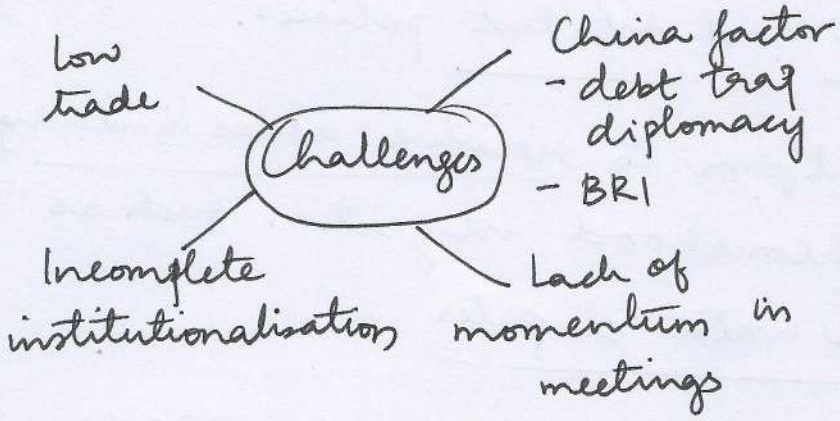
5. Integration via maritime cooperation through naval exercises. to bring strategic angle.

BIMSTEC also has great potential for cooperation on space, agri-business, humanitarian assistance etc.



The recently adopted BIMSTEC Charter upholds traditional Indian foreign policy values and paves the way for greater institutionalisation.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1524)

Name of Candidate	RICHA KULKARNI		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	708164
Center	ONLINE	Date	25/12/2020

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
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6	10	
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8	10	
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11	15	
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17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Tenancy reforms are much needed to give a boost to the Indian agricultural sector. Comment. In this context, also discuss the significance of the Model Land Leasing Act, 2016. **(150 words) 10**

भारतीय कृषि क्षेत्रक को बढ़ावा देने के लिए काश्तकारी सुधारों की अत्यंत आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, मॉडल भूमि पट्टा अधिनियम, 2016 के महत्व की भी विवेचना कीजिए।

With small & marginal farmers accounting for 87% of the land area and falling agricultural productivity due to uneconomic holdings, tenancy reforms are the need of the hour.

Need for tenancy reforms

1) Consolidation of land holdings will allow economies of scale

2) Over 49% of the population is employed in agriculture, contributing only 15% of GVA
→ need diversification of livelihood

3) Goal of doubling farmer incomes

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Significance of Model Land Leasing Act

1) Provides framework for land leasing, allowing farmers to earn income from less productive land.

2) Bar on transfer of ownership secures farmers' rights

3) Possibility of collectives forming leasing large parcels of land with greater value as well as better bargaining power

4) Ease of doing business for pvt. entities.

5) Delayed infrastructural projects can proceed, helping in development.

If adopted by states through consensus and consultation, MLLA can go a long way in boosting agricultural sector.

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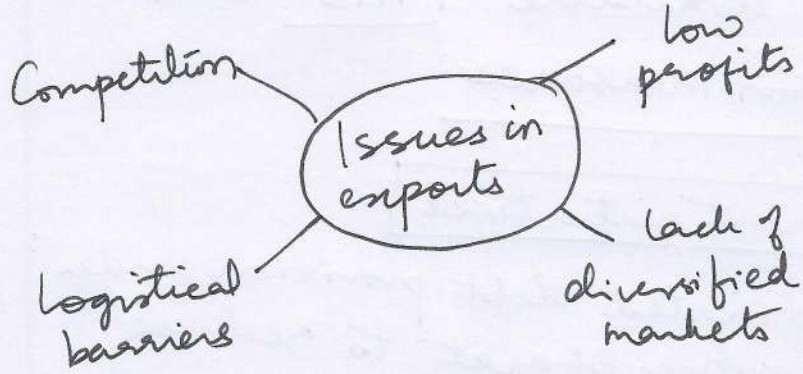
2. Identify the various challenges that have restricted the entry of Indian MSMEs into the foreign market. Also mention some government initiatives that have been taken to facilitate MSME exports. **(150 words) 10**

विदेशी बाजारों में भारतीय MSMEs के प्रवेश को बाधित करने वाली विभिन्न चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए। साथ ही, MSME के निर्यात को सुगम बनाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा की गई कुछ पहलों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Indian MSMEs produce 45% of India's manufacturing output as well as 45% of Indian exports.



Challenges in exports

1) Tough competition from cheaper products from export-intensive economies - not only China, but increasingly Vietnam and Bangladesh.

2) Imposition of technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phyto-sanitary barriers (SPS)

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especially in Europe.

3) Lack of capital and credit access to implement required testing, grading and packaging standards

4) Poor awareness among producers about available PTAs and promotion measures.

Government initiatives

1) Subordinated debt provision under Atmanirbhar Bharat to reduce CoVID impact.

2) RoDTEP scheme for tax incentives

3) ~~Allowed~~ SEZs to procure minimum content requirement from MSMEs

4) Availability of TReDS facility to raise finance.

These measures with proper implementation can help in achieving economies of scale in the MSME sector.

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3. India's march towards inclusive growth and it achieving the Sustainable Development Goals are intricately linked. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**
समावेशी विकास की दिशा में भारत की प्रगति और संधारणीय विकास लक्ष्यों की प्राप्ति जटिल रूप से जुड़े हुए हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

The SDGs provide a comprehensive global framework for sustainable development that is aligned with India's own goals. India's commitment towards realising SDGs by 2030 can thus give it a global platform for its developmental efforts.

Linkages with inclusive growth

1) SDG 2 - Zero Hunger → A top priority (India ranked 109 on Global Hunger Index)

2) SDG 1 - No poverty → Another core priority as around 20% population is BPL

3) SDG 3 Good health & well-being → through schemes such as PMJAY, PMBJP etc

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SDG4-
4) Quality education → especially relevant given our demographic dividend.

5) SDG5- Gender equality → urgent given declining child sex ratio

6) SDG6- Clean Water & Sanitation → main push of SBA

7) SDG7- Affordable & Clean Energy → to meet Paris NDCs

8) SDG8- Decent work & economic growth → goal of $5tn economy

9) SDG9- Industry, innovation, infrastructure → to correct neglect of manufacturing

10) SDG10- Reduced inequalities

11) SDG11- Sust. cities & communities

etc.

NITI Aayog is leading alignment to SDGs, with MoSPI having developed a National Indicator framework to monitor progress.

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4. Highlight the need for evolving an appropriate system of Rules Of Origin in regional trading arrangements. What steps have been taken by India recently in this regard? **(150 words) 10**
क्षेत्रीय व्यापार व्यवस्थाओं में उत्पत्ति के नियमों की एक उपयुक्त प्रणाली विकसित करने की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डालिए। हाल ही में, भारत द्वारा इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

Rules of Origin refer to labelling requirements in the course of international trade that indicate the origin of a particular product.

Need in regional trading agreements

1) Needed to allow producers to make use of agreed upon lower tariffs.

2) To identify true source of products, especially in times of global value chains with internationalised production networks.

3) To protect against unauthorised dumping of foreign goods causing harm to local industries.

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4) To maintain useful data on international trade trends

Recent steps

- India's decision to stay out of RCEP was partly due to rules of origin disagreements and fear of Chinese imports flooding markets.
- Indian govt has started a scheme to provide single-window information to producers and traders about all available FTAs and relevant RoO requirements.
- Development of infrastructure to comply with RoO

Thus RoO can help achieve India's "Atmanirbhar Abhiyan"

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5. MSP regime is a creation of an era of scarcity in the 1960s. Discuss its relevance in the current era of surplus agricultural production.

(150 words) 10

MSP व्यवस्था 1960 के दशक के अभावग्रस्तता के युग का एक आविष्कार है। अधिशेष कृषि उत्पादन के वर्तमान समय में इसकी प्रासंगिकता की विवेचना कीजिए।

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) system is intended to insure farmers against sudden price fluctuations and supply glut. It also serves as a basis for procurement enabling PDS system.

Issues in modern era

1) Creates cobweb effect - distortion in market signals and ends up producing price fluctuations (Economic Survey)

2) Issued too late before sowing season

3) Hiked up by lobbies of rich

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farmers - not seen in scarcity era.

4) Mismatch with additional supports declared by states.

5) Imbalance in regions - over 70% of procurement from Northwestern states - product of surplus era.

Relevance

Informal and small landholder nature of agricultural sector necessitates some support, but reforms are needed, such as-

(i) Statutory ceiling on price
(ii) Rationalisation of list of 23 items
(iii) Replacements with DBT to farmers instead

Recommendations of Shantakumar and Ashok Dalwai committees must also be considered.

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6. Examine the link between the recent locust attack and climate change. (150 words) 10

हाल ही में हुए टिड्डियों के हमले और जलवायु परिवर्तन के मध्य संबंध का परीक्षण कीजिए।

The recent attack of desert locusts caused large scale destruction of agri-produce in Northwestern India, with highest numbers yet.

Link with climate change

1) Warming of Indian Ocean produced higher temperatures and more rainfall in Eastern Africa where locusts take birth.

2) Extended monsoon season in India provided damp ground - suitable for breeding season in India.

3) Recent attack also marked highest inward reach into the

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country, showing seriousness of threat.

4) Climate change also reduces resilience of plants, necessitating pesticides

Reduced attention along their course through West Asia and Pakistan due to preoccupation with COVID also caused intensification of attack on India.

The Locust Warning Organisation issued directives for control, mainly through pesticide spraying. Preparedness will have to be improved in future years given rising impacts of climate change.

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7. Highlighting the properties of Carbon Nanotubes, discuss its applications. (150 words) 10

कार्बन नैनोट्यूब्स के गुणधर्मों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसके अनुप्रयोगों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Carbon nanotubes are cylindrical formations of elemental carbon that are produced in nano-dimensions (10^{-9} m).

Properties & Applications

1) High electrical storage capacity - useful in storage over long term without loss.

2) Use in precision medicine through targeted drug delivery due to precision and easy placement.

3) Use in building materials to give strengths to structures and

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

improve sustainability - however involves high cost

Carbon nanotubes are an important area of R&D in India under the National Nanotechnology Mission.

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8. India's domestic patent regime privileges public health over pharmaceutical industry's interests. Comment. **(150 words) 10**
भारत की घरेलू पेटेंट व्यवस्था औषध उद्योग के हितों पर सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य को विशेषाधिकार प्रदान करती है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

India's domestic patent regime, implemented mainly through the Patents Act, has been in the news for clashing with interests of global pharma industry.

Public health focus

1) India allows compulsory licensing - especially useful in public health crises in times like the COVID-19 pandemic, reducing private pharma profits

2) Parallel importation is allowed from foreign suppliers without regard to patent-holders for same product in India.

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3) Ban on evergreening - whereby industries make small incremental changes to keep patents in perpetuity.

These measures have allowed India to emerge as a hub for affordable exports of generic medicines to many developing countries; and of vaccines (50% of global supply)

- While they may be hurtful to interests of large companies beyond a point, they have also been instrumental in accelerating domestic pharma industry

- The regime is also in alignment with the Doha amendment to TRIPS.

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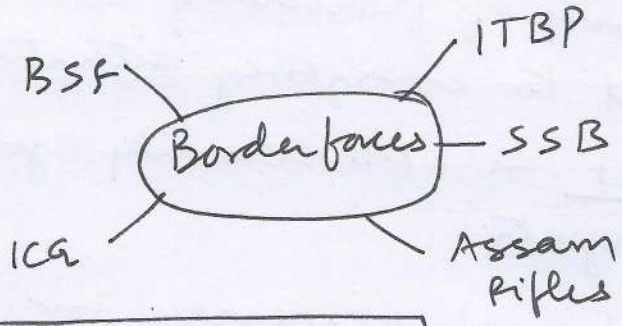
9. Bring out the arguments surrounding the idea of employing the principle of 'one border - one force' on Indian borders. **(150 words) 10**

भारतीय सीमाओं पर 'एक सीमा-एक बल' के सिद्धांत का उपयोग करने के विचार के चतुर्दिक व्याप्त तर्कों को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

The Madhav Godbole committee and Group of Ministers constituted in the Kargil aftermath recommended One Border One force principle.



For One Border One force

1) Frequent withdrawals of border forces for other purposes create gaps in security.
e.g. Assam Rifles → Myanmar border
→ Counter-insurgency operations

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2) Better development of rapport with locals without frequent transfers.

3) Develop dedicated expertise with better understanding of terrain.

Against

1) Necessity of flexibility to respond to emergency situations e.g. BSF in J&K security against insurgents.

2) Withdrawals necessary for disaster response
e.g. SSB in Uttarakhand floods.

OBOF would be a significant security reform if implemented with adequate planning and investments to protect our 15,000 km-long coastline

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. Assess the need to create a new cadre of Indian Frontier Administrative Service to undertake the vital tasks at Indian frontiers. **(150 words) 10**
भारतीय सीमांतों पर महत्वपूर्ण कार्यों को संपादित करने के लिए भारतीय सीमांत प्रशासनिक सेवा का एक नया संवर्ग बनाने की आवश्यकता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Indian frontiers, extending over 15,000 km, are faced with a double burden of security challenges and developmental deficits.

Need for Indian frontier Admin. Service

1) Present system of AGMUT cadre results in frequent transfers - preventing specialisation of officers in unique circumstances of Northeast.

2) Extraordinary needs of development due to low education, rampant drug use (N East is highest in India) and poor reach of schemes

3) Proper coordination with border security forces.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Against proposal

1) Existence of special schemes and provisions - DONER, SARDP-NE, BADP, BRO etc.

2) Against idea of national integration - present system of IAS is a powerful vehicle of unity

3) Heavy investments needed in restructuring and development of new organisation

4) Better to improve participation of locals in present system

Thus the imperatives of border security, national integration and administrative efficiency must be balanced in consideration of such a proposal.

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11. The main objective of Union Budget 2020-21 is to provide "Ease of Living" to all citizens. Analyse the framework proposed in the Budget 2020-21 to achieve this objective. **(250 words) 15**

केंद्रीय बजट 2020-21 का मुख्य उद्देश्य सभी नागरिकों को "ईज़ ऑफ़ लिविंग" (जीवन सुगमता) प्रदान करना है। इस उद्देश्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए बजट 2020-21 में प्रस्तावित ढांचे का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Union Budget of 2020-21 seeks to realise goals such as "Aspirational India", "Economic Development for All" and "Caring Society", towards the cause of Ease of Living.

Procedural & tax simplifications

1) Income tax slab reduction for those willing to forgo exemptions aims to increase ease of tax filing

2) Faceless online tax payment and dispute resolution improves ease of doing business.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

For producers

1) Kisan Rail improves ease of access to markets for farmers.

2) NIRVIK scheme improves ease of exports.

3) eAtithi improves ease of customs for imports.

4) TReDS facility for MSMEs enhances ease of credit for them.

5) Tax holiday for specified startups improves ease of entrepreneurship

6) Village storage scheme provides ease of marketing for agricultural economy.

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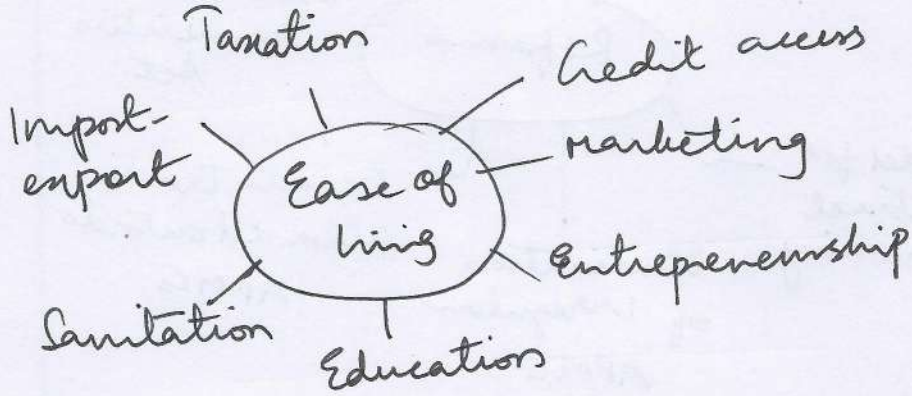
For development

1) Proposal to start teaching hospitals in PPP mode in underserved hospitals → case of medical education

2) ODF++ to improve ease of sanitation



Thus the Budget provides a multi-sectoral approach to ease of living.

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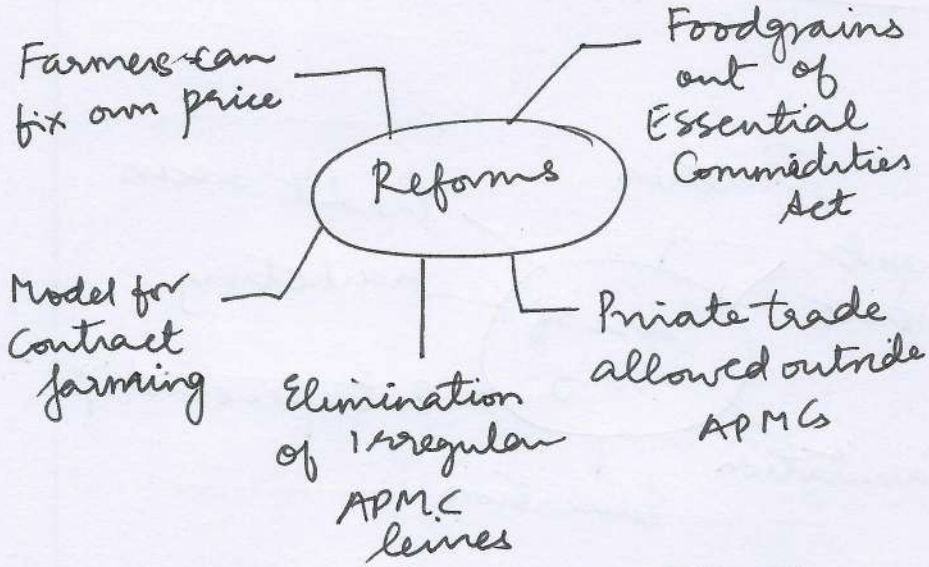
12. Several challenges are needed to be addressed to realise the full benefits of the recent agricultural marketing reforms. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**
हालिया कृषि विपणन सुधारों के पूर्ण लाभों को साकार करने के लिए अनेक चुनौतियों का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Recent agricultural marketing reforms seek to deregulate the trade in agricultural produce, incentivise storage and marketing infastructure and open up contract farming.



Challenges in realising benefits

1) low landholdings → 86% of agricultural households are

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Small & marginal farmers, who lack capital and credit access to invest in improvements.

2) Low private storage capacity due to decades of disincentivisation due to arbitrary stock limits under ECA.

3) Leakages in PDS.

4) High cost of agricultural inputs

5) Lack of organised power among small & marginal farmers - creates fears of exploitation by contract farming at the hands of corporates.

6) Post-harvest losses due to improper transportation and storage.

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7) Lack of private infrastructure for testing, grading, packaging outside APMCs.

8) Lack of marketing linkages with individual farmers outside the APMC system.

9) Poor exports - only 7% of produce

Thus the recent reforms need a large-scale reform of agricultural sector to be beneficial. With agriculture still employing 49% of the population but contributing only 15% of the GVA, measures like export promotion of value added products, food processing MSMEs, land reforms etc. are the need of the hour.

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13. Multimodal transport requires multiple integrations across different modes of transportation. Substantiate. What are the challenges and opportunities associated with multimodal transportation for India? **(250 words) 15**

बहुविध परिवहन (मल्टीमॉडल ट्रांसपोर्ट) के लिए परिवहन के विभिन्न साधनों के मध्य विविध रूप से एकीकरण की आवश्यकता है। पुष्टि कीजिए। भारत के लिए बहुविध परिवहन से जुड़ी चुनौतियां और अवसर क्या हैं?

Multimodal transport refers to the integration of various modes of transportation - e.g. land, rail, inland waterways - run by the same operator along a predetermined route.

Requirement of multiple integrations

1) Physical integration has to be undertaken to ensure smooth transition between any two modes e.g. Recent project on NW1 has "roll-on-roll off" mechanism for transfer from road to inland shipping

2) Regulatory integration is needed for smooth operation. This means real-time coordination between authorities

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Such as NHAI, NWAI and Railways.

3) Logistical integration is needed, for which advanced logistics management information systems may be useful.

4) Process integration for integrated permits, land and environmental clearances will be useful.

Challenges

1) Development of infrastructural linkages between various modes requires high investment.

2) Land acquisition problems, especially in major industrial centres.

3) Poor port-hinterland connectivity

4) Logistical gaps in all modes e.g. high turnaround time at ports

5) Already burdened transport sectors - losses in railways, road sector

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affected by economic slowdown.

6) Environmental concerns from large-scale infrastructure - e.g. highways may cut through protected areas.

Opportunities

1) Potential to boost exports by connecting hinterland to ports - e.g. Varanasi to Haldia multimodal project.

2) Stimulus to infrastructure development in tier 2 and 3 towns due to connectivity e.g. Sahibganj in same project

3) Ease of doing business improvement due to lower logistical delays.

4) Lower costs in long term due to economy of scale.

Multimodal transportation thus has great promise for trade, infrastructure and manufacturing in India.

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14. Though COVID-19 pandemic exposes the vulnerability of Informal sector and associated labor force in India, it also presents an opportunity to rebalance formal-informal economy dynamics in the country. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

हालांकि, कोविड-19 महामारी भारत में अनौपचारिक क्षेत्रक और संबद्ध श्रम बल की सुभेद्यता को उजागर करती है, लेकिन साथ ही यह देश में औपचारिक-अनौपचारिक अर्थव्यवस्था की गतिशीलता को संतुलित करने का एक अवसर भी प्रस्तुत करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The informal sector employs around 91% of the workforce in India. It is marked with high vulnerability, low incomes, and poor credit access.

Vulnerability exposed by COVID-19

1. COVID-19 lockdowns hit sectors with high share of informal workforce - hospitality, real estate etc.
2. Migrant workers undergoing large-scale job loss and suffering - Economic Survey estimates over 30 mn migrant workers
3. Informal sector experiences poor working conditions in crowded,

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unhygienic environments, putting workers at high risk of infection

4. Women are overrepresented in informal sector. As COVID pushed men down into informal sector, women were pushed further down into unemployment.

5. lack of social security exposes informal sector to sudden loss of income and high OOPE on healthcare

6. Dominance of child labour in illegal activities (e.g. glass industry in Allahabad) goes unmeasured.

Opportunities to rebalance

1. Databases are being created for individual workers migrating across states to avoid another migrant exodus.

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2. Credit is being provided to street vendors - serves to sustain income as well as a step towards formalisation

3. Renewed impetus to bring small traders under GST net.

4. Promotion of SHGs - special refinance facility has been made available through NABARD.

5. Promotion of handicraft exports is being undertaken.

Way Ahead

Initiatives for skill certification and development, entrepreneurship promotion, cooperatives etc. must be enhanced further to increase formalisation of the economy.

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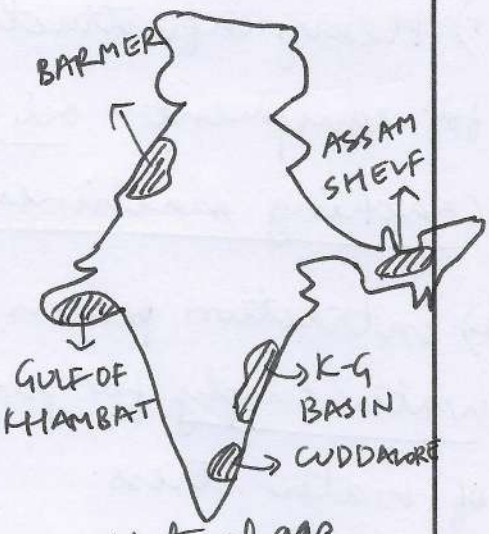
15. Highlight the drivers and challenges facing India's ambition to become a gas-based economy. Mention the steps that have been taken by the government recently in this regard. (250 words) 15

गैस आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था बनने की भारत की महत्वाकांक्षा के चालकों और सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों को रेखांकित कीजिए। इस संबंध में हाल ही में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

India targets to raise the share of natural gas in its energy basket from 6.5% to 15%.

Drivers of gas-based economy

1) Availability of natural gas in diverse locations



Natural gas basins

2) Need to diversify away from coal, due to 60% import dependence and emissions issues.

3) Rising requirements due to increasing urbanisation as well as

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push for manufacturing activity under Make in India.

4) Uncertainty of renewable energy sources along with high costs - gas based economy as middle path between coal and renewables

Challenges

1) Heavy infrastructure investment for equipment - oil drills, hydraulic cracking machinery.

2) Extraction process needs massive water supply for pumping - in times of water stress.

3) Environmental degradation due to extraction - landslides, soil degradation etc.

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4) Controlled pricing → domestic gas prices are administered by govt. leading to poor incentive for private investments

Recent steps

1) Promotion through National Gas Grid and City Gas Distribution Networks.

2) Unified gas pricing system is proposed.

3) First gas exchange for imported natural gas for real-time sale and purchase of gas at Dahej, Hajira, Kakinada

4) Promotion to biogas through schemes such as GOBARdhan.

Bringing about a gas based economy can thus help India meet its emissions reductions targets under Paris Agreement.

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16. Climate Change and the associated events endanger the marine and coastal ecosystems while increasing the vulnerability of coastal population. Examine. (250 words) 15

जलवायु परिवर्तन और संबद्ध घटनाएं तटीय जनसंख्या की सुभेद्यता को बढ़ाते हुए समुद्री एवं तटीय पारिस्थितिक तंत्रों को खतरे में डालती हैं। परीक्षण कीजिए।

A recent report by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlights the impact of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems.

Marine ecosystems-impact

1) Reduction in net primary productivity, leading to lower fish catch.

2) Growth of ocean deoxygenation zones, especially at Eastern Boundary Upwelling Systems (EBUS).

3) More stratified ocean water, leading to lesser mixing and lesser nutrient availability.

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4) Damage to coral reefs – coral bleaching is estimated to continue even if 2°C goal under Paris is met

5) Species loss due to rising temperature and microplastics

Coastal ecosystems – impact

1) Sea level rise leading to saline ingress in coastal areas and aquifers.

2) Harm to coastal aquaculture

3) Endangering fishing grounds – e.g. Grand Banks of Newfoundland have seen drop in productivity

4) Increase in weather events such as storm surges.

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Vulnerability of coastal populations

1) Small Island Developing States are doubly threatened by disaster risk and loss of tourism due to environmental degradation – e.g. CARICOM countries.

2) Sea level rise carries risk of submergence and structures being damaged – e.g. Indonesia is moving capital inland.

3) Loss of traditional fishing incomes

4) Increased risk of diseases – e.g. due to harmful algal blooms.

Strict implementation of CRZ norms, disaster risk preparedness and diversification of coastal economy are necessary to protect coastal populations from climate change.

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17. Using examples, highlight how natural ecosystems perform different hazard mitigation functions. (250 words) 15

उदाहरणों का उपयोग करते हुए, रेखांकित कीजिए कि प्राकृतिक पारिस्थितिक तंत्र किस प्रकार अलग-अलग संकट के शमन का कार्य करते हैं।

Natural ecosystems are freely available sources of protection from disaster risk, especially important to India that ranks 5th in climate vulnerability.

Terrestrial ecosystems - Examples:

1) Presence of forestland reduces risk of landslides (15% of Indian area is prone) by providing soil conservation, barrier to soil slide etc.

2) Presence of lakes along river floodplains reduces flood risk by providing additional storage and channel diversion.

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3) Groundwater resources are conserved due to presence of natural vegetation, reducing drought risk.

4) Naturally occurring vegetation with diversity of species maintains soil fertility and integrity.

Coastal ecosystems - Examples:

1) Presence of mangroves reduces impact of tsunamis, cyclones, storm surges etc. This was observed during the 2004 tsunami.

2) Natural vegetation along islands, fringing reefs reduce risk of above weather events.

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3) Coastal fisheries, aquaculture also provide sustainable livelihoods, reducing economic aspect of disaster risks.

Thus protection of natural ecosystems represents a sustainable way to mitigate hazards, as recognised in the Sendai Framework and the PM's 10-point disaster risk reduction Plan

The traditional knowledge of local communities can also be harnessed in this regard, along with practices such as sacred groves.

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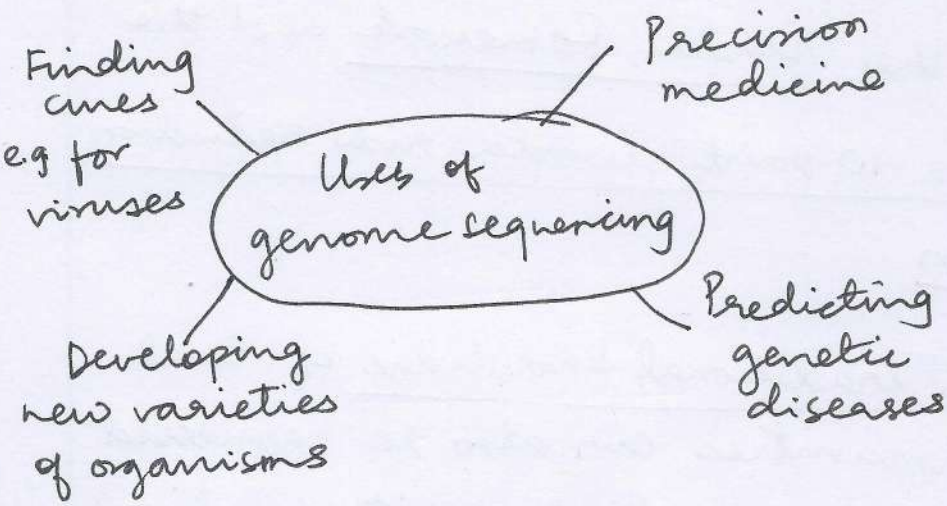
18. Explain what genome sequencing is and state the challenges in scaling up genome sequencing projects. Also, throw some light on the recently launched IndiGen Project. **(250 words) 15**

व्याख्या कीजिए कि जीनोम अनुक्रमण क्या है और जीनोम अनुक्रमण परियोजनाओं को बढ़ावा देने में विद्यमान चुनौतियों का वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, हाल ही में आरंभ की गई इंडिजेन (IndiGen) परियोजना पर कुछ प्रकाश डालिए।

Genome sequencing refers to the deciphering of the entire set of base pairs in an organism's DNA, enabling scientists to obtain a complete genetic profile.



Challenges in scaling up

1) High investment costs for genetic material collection, storage,

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experimentation etc.

2) Needs highly trained workforce

3) Concerns about privacy (especially for India with 3rd highest data vulnerability) of a person's medical records

4) Cybersecurity risks

5) Low level of R&D in biotechnology in India - disproportionately low in private sector

IndiGen Project

- Carried out by DBT through CSIR.
- Aims to develop genetic sequences of 1,000 Indian individuals, in order to get an India-specific genetic map.

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Uses :

(i) Production of drugs and cures specially suited to Indian genetic makeup.

(ii) Applications in research on migration history

(iii) Better standing in international projects

Way Ahead

India must continue to work on collaborations outside, such as the recent GISAID initiative to sequence the coronavirus (nCov-19). Simultaneously, indigenous R&D must also be developed to retain and improve India's importance in biotechnology.

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19. India needs to avert radicalisation and societal dissention, as internal faultlines are a breeding ground for cyber and transnational terrorism. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

भारत को कट्टरपंथीकरण और सामाजिक मतभेदों को रोकने की आवश्यकता है, क्योंकि आंतरिक दरारें साइबर एवं पार-राष्ट्रीय आतंकवाद का जनन स्थल होती हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Terrorism refers to the political use of violence at a large-scale to create instability and fear among populations and governments.

Terrorism is more successful in countries with spread of radicalisation and social dissension

Link with cyberterrorism

- Operates mainly through online recruitment and radicalisation - e.g. ISIS fighters
- Difficult to detect as no clear risk profiling has been possible
- Individuals facing marginalisation

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and social distress are more susceptible.

- Social dissentions lead to spread of suspicion, mistrust and even fake news which are exploited by terrorists.
- Individuals experiencing isolation are especially prone to radicalisation

Links with transnational terrorism

- Cross-border terrorism succeeds when local support is available for arms smuggling, concealment of people etc.
- Radicalisation and social dissension increase likelihood of local populations aiding terrorists

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• Terrorists also make use of existing social tensions to distract security forces and obscure their agenda.
e.g. Cross-border terrorists and separatist factions in J&K

Way Ahead

Radicalisation needs to be reduced by developmental opportunities, education and employment, entrepreneurship (e.g. Roshni scheme) along with vigilant cybersecurity especially in the Dark Net. Social dissensions need to be controlled by regulating media coverage, removing fake news and exemplary punishments for communal acts.

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20. Given the emerging security challenges, discuss why the establishment of Integrated Theatre Commands is being seen as an important defence reform. **(250 words) 15**

उभरती हुई सुरक्षा चुनौतियों को देखते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि क्यों एकीकृत थिएटर कमान की स्थापना को महत्वपूर्ण रक्षा सुधार के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

In the present geopolitical scenario, India faces complicated security challenges that require radical reforms in our security architecture

Emerging challenges

1) Renewed violence on Indo-China border
2) Sophisticated cross-border terrorism attempts.
3) Heightened maritime insecurity due to geopolitical Tensions.
4) Nexus with local smuggling rings and organised crime in case of terrorist groups.

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Integrated Theatre Commands refer to tri-service unified formations organised in distinct territorial pockets.

e.g. The Andaman & Nicobar Command has army, navy and air force components.

Importance

1) Ability to quickly mobilise, better than present system of single-service commands that take up precious time for coordination. Kargil Review Committee highlighted role of delays in force mobilisation

2) Better inter-service coordination at command level cutting down complex procedures.

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3) Possibility of rationalisation of armed forces numbers due to restructuring.

4) Positive experience of ANC in securing islands and sealanes

5) Unpredictability of nature of next attack - airborne, territorial, marine, or hybrid.

Thus integrated theatre commands are an important defence reform. However, it will need considerable investment. In this regard, the Fifteenth Finance Commission received defence budgeting as a term of reference.